

**TOWN OF HINGHAM
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

Police Chief Glenn A. Olsson, Chairman
Sgt. David Horte, Representative for Chief Olsson
Lt. John Haley, Representative for Chief Mark Duff
Harry Sylvester, DPW
William Ramsey, Planning Board
Daniel Zivkovich
Clark Frazier
Francis Donlan

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Chief Glenn Olsson
RE: Minutes of February 24, 2016 Traffic Committee Meeting
DATE: February 25, 2016

PRESENT: Sgt. David Horte, Hingham Police Department
Lt. John Haley – Hingham Fire Department
Harry Sylvester, Hingham DPW
Clark Frazier
Francis Donlan

Sgt. Horte called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

A motion was made by John Haley, seconded by Harry Sylvester, to accept the minutes as written of the previous meeting on 1/27/16. Unanimous vote in favor.

1. Crash Data Update on High/French/Ward Street Intersection

Sgt. Horte presented a crash history review for the intersection going back for 3 years which showed that there 7 crashes in 2013, all of which were angle crashes caused by failure to yield. Two had minor injuries, 14 vehicles were involved, 6 were towed and there were no serious injuries. All vehicles involved had been coming from Ward Street trying to cross High Street. There were also 7 crashes in 2014 and again all were angle crashes caused by failure to yield. One had minor injuries, one had serious injuries, 14 vehicles were involved and 9 were towed. And once again, all vehicles involved had been coming from Ward Street trying to cross High Street. In 2015, there were 6 crashes, 2 with minor injuries, 13 vehicles involved and 5 were towed. 5 were caused by failure to yield and one was from failure to stop at stop sign as the driver was distracted by GPS. All involved were coming from Ward Street trying to cross High St. on the data sheet, Ward Street is labelled as French since it's still considered French St. at the point where the intersection is. This data clearly shows that the problematic area is at Ward Street crossing High. DPW had brought the stop line out and painted an island on the French Street side in October 2015 and that has helped tremendously. Sgt Horte reported that there have been only two crashes since these changes were made.

High Street resident Dewitt Delawter agreed with this as well as Oakcrest Road residents Gail and Ed Ryberg. Harry Sylvester suggested that DPW can paint high friction and high visibility tire grip

crosswalks and traffic islands on the Ward Street side of the intersection. This could be done in May or June and then the Committee could review data in the Fall to determine if these changes have made a difference in preventing crashes. Another factor is the speed of traffic coming from Weymouth on High Street.

Sgt. Horte will increase enforcement in the vicinity of Nichols Road. Lt. Haley (Fire) also suggested moving the 20 MPH suggested speed sign to that area to see if that helps to deter people from speeding. Harry Sylvester reminded everyone that this sign is a suggested speed sign only and cannot be enforced. These signs are yellow and the regular speed signs are white. Those are the ones that can be enforced. All thickly settled areas of the Town are 30 MPH. Ed Johnson of High Street asked about stop sign enforcement. Sgt. Horte said that he would add that to the officers' traffic assignments and will make note of any future crashes at the intersection along with the causes. Sgt. Horte also said that he would put the traffic trailer there in the Spring which shows people the speed that they should be travelling and encourages cars to slow down.

Lisa Taylor of Autumn Circle said that the crosswalk in that area hasn't slowed vehicles down and there is not any signage to alert people to a crosswalk. Harry Sylvester replied that he would make sure to post a sign there. Clark Frazier asked if stop signs could be posted on High Street to which Harry Sylvester replied that it is not an option due to the fact that it would cause fatalities. There is nowhere to post the signs either due to the grade and layout of the intersection. Clark Frazier then asked whether a rumble strip could be installed to which Harry Sylvester said that according to MUCAD regulations, these are not allowed on any road with a direct route to a hospital.

The best options for improving this intersection are to increase speed enforcement and to increase visibility for cars coming from Ward Street and crossing High Street. A recommendation was made by Clark Frazier to ask the Board to Selectmen to allocate funds for DPW to paint high friction and high visibility tire grip crosswalks and traffic islands at Ward and High Street. The motion was seconded by Fran Donlan with all in favor.

Lt. Haley brought up the issue of unsafe turns on the truck route road at the Derby Shoppes. This road isn't supposed to be used by the general public but people do use this street to avoid lights. As a result, they are making problematic turns and causing crashes. Sgt. Horte will increase enforcement at that location and will compile data for engineers working on the south Hingham corridor project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Jacobson, Administrative Assistant